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## Under Every Bed in Moscow

If the ill-fated Bay of Pigs invasion proved the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency to be as subject to error as less sacrosanct arms of the government, the Russian Penkovsky spy case has proven the CIA not entirely bumbling—and that its Soviet counterpart has its troubles, too.

The central figure of the case, Oleg Penkovsky, a former Soviet scientific coordinator, has already been executed for passing some 5,000 secret documents to the West. His chief go-between with U.S. and British intelligence agencies, British businessman Greville Wynne, has begun serving an eight-year prison term. And 10 U.S. and British diplomatic employees have been barred from Moscow for their alleged relations with Penkovsky.

The reverberations are not ended, however. Gen. Ivan Serov, former Soviet security chief, is under arrest, stripped of his position as deputy chief of the general staff. With customary evasiveness, Moscow says his difficulties result from his "monstrous acts" as a secret police official under Stalin rather than his close past links

with Penkovsky. And 300 Russian intelligence agents — including Serov's son, Vladimir—have been recalled from posts around the world for "consultations" in the Kremlin, which blandly explains that all of them are simply returning home because of illnesses in their families.

But the very fact that the Russian security system could be so shaken by the Penkovsky case makes it a feather in the CIA's cap, although one the agency surely would have preferred to do without. A caught spy, however valuable the information he has provided, is worse than useless.

Still, it's reassuring to U.S. citizens to know the CIA was able to penetrate the Iron Curtain in such manner, and to find a relatively high Soviet official willing to sell state secrets. And it's even more reassuring to know that the Russians have such doubts about whom they can trust that they're now at least figuratively looking under every bed and inside every closet in Moscow to see if more Penkovskys are lurking there.